

PATENT
IBM Docket No. UK9-99-128

REMARKS

Status:

Claims 1-23 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by the teaching of US Patent No. 6,199,195 to Goodwin et al (hereinafter Goodwin).

Amendments to the two independent claims, 1 and 10, are proposed for entry to more strongly emphasize Applicant's contribution, relating to lifecycle definition flexibility at runtime. These and claims 2-9 and 11-23 are presented for reconsideration as is explained in the discussion which follows.

Analysis:

Applicant's activity instances are runtime activities and the descriptors are customized for them during runtime. The claims (see the two independent claims 1 and 10) are amended, as now proposed, to emphasize strongly the timing of the processing of activity instances and the customization, with descriptors for lifecycle, timed to occur at runtime.

Goodwin teaches developers to generate business objects at development-time that are composed of behaviors which include lifecycles (see Goodwin at col. 7, lines 50-59). At runtime (col.7, lines 59-62) Goodwin uses the objects, that were generated at development time, to retrieve user data. Throughout the Goodwin teaching, the focus on development-time for generating of business objects is maintained. Object models like Goodwin's are discussed as background at Applicant's page 2, lines 11-17.

In a complicated transaction space, there is typically a proliferation of objects created at development time to accommodate varied expectations at runtime and Applicant's have recognized that lifecycle variations appropriate for different data uses can be a big


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contributor to this proliferation. As is now clearly indicated in the claims, Applicant's recognize that lifecycle descriptors may be customized and applied at runtime to simplify the processing of business transactions in transaction processing systems such as the Enterprise g JAVA Beans environment (see Applicants' p.4, lines 13-24).

The changes proposed for the claims are believed to eliminate any confusion on this significant timing and descriptor placement and are believed to serve to place the claims in condition for allowance. Accordingly early notice that this amendment is being entered and that this case is being allowed is earnestly solicited.

Applicant's attorney would welcome a call from the Examiner, at the telephone number indicated below, for discussing possibilities for advancing the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully Submitted,


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